The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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WASTE IN INDUSTRY SHOULD BE CHECKED

Approval of the coal operators' effort to annul their wage agreement with organized miners comes with poor grace from those who talk of a strong purchasing power as the basis of prosperity.

These rates were fixed by President Wilson's bituminous coal commission in 1920, following the 1919 general strike. In 1922 another general strike defeated a wage reduction plan. In April, last year, the operators accepted these rates and signed a three-year agreement. Now they would treat it as a scrap of paper.

No one denies that this industry is in an uneconomic tangle of high and low cost mines, unequal freight rates and too many mines.

These factors are ignored by those who would lower living standards and pit the union miner against the unorganized in cut-throat competition.

The chaos that prevails in coal production is no exception to industry as a whole. Loss of life, accidents, occupational diseases, preventable sickness, labor turnover and other wastes is the rule.

Aside from human suffering, the money loss is billions of dollars annually.

Loss through strikes to maintain living conditions, and to maintain a strong purchasing power, are insignificant compared with industrial wastes that can—and should—be prevented.

In its study on "Waste in Industry" by a committee of the Federated American Engineering Societies, published in 1921, these scientists said:

> **"The investigations clearly indicate that industrial waste is caused not only by failure to use the time and energy of living men, but also from failure to use the productive equipment which has resulted from the time and energy expended by past generations.**
>
> **"Since most strikes occur in seasonal employments, it can be deduced that output is not necessarily penalized, for it is often possible to make up the losses incurred by strikes through increased production at other times."**

The commission said that practically all industries "are in a sense seasonal." They pointed out, for instance, that the clothing worker is idle 31 per cent of his time; the shoemaker, 35 per cent; the building craftsman, 38 per cent, while the bituminous coal miner averaged 93 idle possible working days every year for the last 30 years.

The appalling waste in industry should cause every employer to face facts. The phraseology of union-smashing organizations should be dropped.

If waste were eliminated, life would be lengthened, living standards increased, profits enlarged and a mutuality developed between the necessary elements in industry.

This is not possible when workers are forced to keep their trade unions on a war footing to repel attack against living standards.

GOVERNOR SIGNS INJUNCTION BILL

Springfield, Ill., June 27.—Governor Small has signed the anti-injunction bill which prevents court interference with peaceful picketing and persuasion. This law was secured after the hardest campaign in the history of the Illinois state federation of labor.

The unionists were opposed by the Illinois manufacturers' association and allied interests. These forces are dazed at a defeat they did not believe possible.

The bill passed the lower house by a narrow margin. A feature of the discussion was a speech for the bill by Representative Douglas, a negro, who is considered one of the best orators of that body. The position of this representative, together with Representative King, another negro, and a plea by negro trade unionists, defeated the attempts of opponents to divide friends of the bill by raising the racial question. Both Douglas and King had voted against the limitation-injunction bill in the past, but the masterly plea of a negro trade unionists brought a new viewpoint to the two legislators.

The workers' campaign has resulted in inestimable educational values. This was shown just before the final vote in the lower house when the lawmakers rejected several cunningly devised amendments that would strengthen the bill, its friends were told. The amendments, however, would legalize a judge enjoining a worker from quitting his employment if such action "caused loss" to his employer.

LABOR HONORS LA FOLLETTE; FUNERAL RITES WERE SIMPLE

Washington, June 27.—A delegation of organized workers, headed by President Green, were at the Union station to pay their last respects to the late Senator La Follette when his remains were taken to Madison, Friday, June 19. He died the previous day from heart disease.

There was no ceremony or demonstration at the Union station. The trade unionists and other friends silently watched the plain gray casket placed in a special car. The departure from the nation's capital was the extreme of a life unswervingly devoted to the people's cause.

The funeral at Madison, the following Monday, conformed to the rigid simplicity of the dead senator's personal life. At the request of President Green officers of the Madison federation of labor, fellow townsmen of the departed, represented the A. F. of L.

The death of Senator La Follette is an irreparable loss to popular government. His energy and zeal were unequalled. None of his colleagues could approach his knowledge of economic and political questions, nor his life-long determination to have these problems adjusted to meet the people's need. He has a more brilliant record for initiating remedial legislation than any other lawmaker in the nation's history.

As governor of Wisconsin he initiated the primary system in the nomination of officers that is now so generally accepted. His other measures include equitable railroad taxation, tariff, forest conservation and the currency.

He led all social legislation and stood 100 per cent behind organized labor. His two most notable contributions to human liberty are the seaman's law and the government employes' right to organize. Before the seamen's law it was illegal for a seaman to quit his employment. Prior to the anti-gag law government employes were prohibited, by executive order, from asking congress to improve their conditions unless they received permission from their department chiefs or other superiors.

Senator La Follette could not be controlled. He refused to abide by party dictum when these decisions violated his conscience. In the senate he did not hide behind the "party caucus," but insisted on roll call votes. He did much to develop an independent spirit in politics and to destroy blind party allegiance.

He was identified with labor in a position, well and good. If not, he traveled alone. Last year he announced his candidacy for president on a platform he prepared. His opponents yet insist on calling that movement a "party," though it merely consisted of his announcement, followed by hastily formed committees in the interest of his candidacy. La Follette toured the country in that campaign, and finally secured approximately 5,000,000 votes. His opponents terrified the people with their panicky claims in the event of his success.

That campaign marked the beginning of the end, though the old fighter and his close friends carefully guarded the facts of his physical condition. His physicians informed him that he would live until he was 85 years of age if he conserved his health.

He died at 70 years of age rather than abandon a life-long battle for justice.

Kellogg Note Arouses Mexico; Latin America Joins In Protest

Washington, June 27.—Secretary Kellogg's recent note on the Mexican situation has not strengthened the United States in South America. The note was vigorously answered by President Calles of Mexico, who protested against what he termed an insult "to the sovereignty of my country."

Calles' position is sustained in a statement issued at Buenos Aires by the Latin-American union.

> **"If we admitted without murmuring that a foreign power can dictate to the government of a Latin-American country the manner in which its domestic problems should be resolved and the political tendency which should prevail in its public functions, threatening to provoke a revolution if it did not accept the orders received, we could not comp'ain tomorrow, if in any situation equally grave to Argentina's national dignity, no brother people expressed its sympathy with us," the statement said.**

"The Latin-American union, whose fundamental norm is the political solidarity of our peoples, extends to General Calles its fervent sympathy."

Wm. Green, president of the A. F. of L., made this comment on the Kellogg note:

"The unexpectedness of the statement from our secretary of state, together with an absence of specifications as to charges, except the general implication as to the responsibility of the labor movement, was mystifying and most disturbing. The American Federation of Labor has been in close touch with the Mexican Federation of Labor since its organization, and with deep gratification has watched its progress in constructive development. In the period in which has come its transition from a movement banned by Mexican law to a movement whose rights are prescribed in the constitution, there has been tremendous progress, accompanied by the sobering education of responsibility for constructive results.

"At the earliest opportunity I sought information from the secretary of state, urging upon him the deep interest of the American Federation of Labor in the welfare of the Mexican labor movement, and expressed apprehension lest revolutionary agencies, always ready to seek opportunity to overthrow constitutional government in Mexico, might receive inspiration and encouragement from the declaration that would lead to strife, civil war and chaos in Mexico.

"**In my opinion it is unthinkable that our government should contribute to a situation that might lead to military intervention in Mexico.**"

TEAPOT DOME LEASE IS LEGAL; CONTRARY TO OTHER DECISION

Cheyenne, Wyo., June 27.—The Sinclair oil interests administered a crushing defeat to the government in its suit before Federal Judge Kennedy to have the Teapot Dome oil lease set aside.

The court denied the plea and upheld the company on every point. The claim of collusion and fraud between Sinclair and former Secretary of the Interior Fall is dismissed and President Harding's order to transfer control of the naval oil lands from the secretary of the navy to the secretary of the interior is declared legal.

The decision is directly opposite from a decision by Federal Judge McCormick of Los Angeles, a court of equal jurisdiction, who set aside Doheny's lease of the Elk Hills naval oil reserves three weeks ago. In that decision Judge McCormick said that the Harding order was "in excess of the executive power of the president," and that Fall's transfer of the Elk Hills oil lands to Doheny was "a fraud upon the United States."

Instead of declaring that the Teapot Dome transfer a fraud, Judge Kennedy said that "this appears to be a good contract for the government."

The little black satchel with $100,000 in cash that came to Fall was responsible for Judge McCormick's determination that there was fraud in the Elk Hills contract. The $290,000 of Liberty bonds that was depended on by the government to play a like part in the Teapot Dome case failed because Judge Kennedy ruled that the allegation of fraud was not sustained, because the Liberty bonds had not been traced to Sinclair. The government traced these bonds to relatives of Fall. They were distributed by the Continental trading company, one of the interlocking concerns that had dealings with the Sinclair interests. The president of the trading company refused to testify for the government. As he remained outside the country it was impossible to compel his attendance at court. Other important government witnesses remained in Europe and elsewhere during the trial. These included the chairman of the board of directors of the Standard oil company of Indiana and other prominent oil men.

At the conclusion of his decision, Judge Kennedy made these significant statements:

"In reaching a conclusion in this case we fully realize the degree of unpopularity with which it will be received. This is true, in the nature of things, because the great general public is reached only with the sentimental features surrounding the transactions involved, and being largely in the dark as to all the other multitudes of circumstances with which the case is surrounded, and knowing perhaps little of the great legal principles which the experience of the ages has taught mankind must control in dealing with the rights of persons and property."

The government will appeal the Kennedy decision and find Doheny interests will appeal the McCormick decision.

END OF FIRM RECALLS "DIVINE RIGHTS" BAER

Philadelphia, June 27.—Announcement is made that the powerful Temple iron company, once known as the anthracite trust, no longer exists. The coal will be operated by the late George F. Baer, it was all-powerful. The passing of this business completes the famous letter Baer wrote in 1902 during the anthracite strike of that year. Thereafter he became known as "Divine Right." For years he was subjected to jibes and criticism.

Recently, owing to an appeal by W. F. Clark of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., for justice to the miners, Baer replied:

"If God don't know who you are, see that you are a religious man, but you are evidently biased in favor of the right of the working man to control a business in which he has no other interest than to secure fair wages for the work he does.

"I beg of you not to be discouraged. The rights and interests of the laboring man will be protected and cared for—not by the labor agitators, but by the Christian men to whom God in His infinite wisdom has given control of the property interests of the country, and upon the successful management of which depends the prosperity of the whole country.

"Do not be discouraged. Pray earnestly that right may triumph, always remembering that the Lord God Omnipotent still reigns, and that His reign is one of law and order, and not of violence and crime."

Steel's 7-Day Week Made Record In 1924

Washington, June 27.—Shorter hours in the steel industry in 1924—from a fact, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics, which has issued a pamphlet on the subject.

The public has been led to believe that in the latter part of 1923 the steel trust graciously reduced the working time of its employes after the nation-wide steel strike, but the government report shows that in some departments the seven-day week is more extensive than ever.

In open-hearth furnaces, last year, 52 per cent of the employes worked seven days a week, while an additional 32 per cent alternated or rotated regularly from six to seven days. This is the largest amount of seven-day work for any year reported.

In 1920, the previous high year, 33 per cent of the employes worked seven days per week and 40 per cent alternated between six and seven days.

Seven days in blast furnaces also increased. Last year 80 per cent of the employes worked seven days either all or part of the time, as compared with 58 per cent in 1914. Blooming mills showed more seven-day work last year than any other year.

"Some plants which operate seven days per week make provision for laying off each employe one day a week," the report states. "There is no indication of the extent of this practice, however, though the figures indicate that the seven-day week is extending."

JAP PROPAGANDISTS OPPOSED BY UNIONS

San Francisco, June 27.—The state federation of labor appropriated $250 to aid the California joint immigration committee in its campaign against the propaganda to modify the exclusion feature of the immigration act so as to meet the demands of Japan.

The immigration committee functions for four state organizations—the state federation of labor, the state grange, the American legion and the native sons of the golden west.

The committee is pleased that the protest made by Japan and the friends of that nation in this country is based largely on a misconception of the facts and the reason which induced action by congress.

MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS TOTAL ONE MILLION

Los Angeles, June 27.—It is estimated that the Mexican population in the southwest is 1,100,000. These Mexicans are divided as follows: California, 250,000; Texas, 550,000; New Mexico, 180,000; Arizona and Colorado, 60,000 each.

6-DAY WEEK IN LAUNDRIES

Detroit, Mich., June 27.—Organized girls employed in hand laundries have a five-day week while unorganized girls are working long hours this hot weather. The Laundry Workers' union has signed agreements with 175 laundries.

TAXI DRIVERS WIN

Portland, Ore., June 27.—Organized taxi drivers have adjusted their wage dispute with employers. Through arbitration the workers made gains and defeated the proposal to establish a commission basis of setting wages.

MORE MINERS KILLED IN NON-UNION FIELD

Charleston, W. Va., June 27.—The strongest indictment of coal ownership and anti-union system in this state is a list of mine fatalities in West Virginia, as compared with fatalities in the organized fields.

In a letter to Governor Gore, Percy Tetlow, president of district No. 17, United Mine Workers of America, shows that more men, per tons of coal mined, have been killed in West Virginia than in the union fields of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

For the 10 years ending 1922 West Virginia killed more than nearly twice the number of men killed in Illinois in proportion to tons mined.

The letter quotes statistics that in the last 10 years the West Virginia non-union mines have killed 1,546 employes while the union mines in this state destroyed the lives of but 41 workers.

These disasters are traceable to a failure of state officials to enforce the West Virginia mining laws. In organized districts the union compels enforcement, but where the workers have no union they are powerless to protect their lives.

GAS BAN IS FUTILE, CHEMIST PREDICTS

Bellport, L. I., June 27.—The council of the league of nations at Geneva has outlawed the use of gas in warfare, but the American public should not accept this as final, said Dr. Charles H. Herty, president of a chemical association.

"Of the gases actually used in the world war several are certainly used in peace," said Dr. Herty. "It would only be possible to restrict production of such gases by a universal international regulation of the chemical industry and commerce.

"Even if only one power in the world refused to keep an international agreement to abstain from using poisonous gases on the declaration, the latter alone controls 130 plants and expects to do a total business of $100,000,000 this year, or about one-tenth of the nation's total baking.

"The character of the bread industry has been changing very rapidly in recent years," says the Bakers' Journal. "Automatic machinery has been introduced to care for most of the processes done by hand for years and it will probably not be long before no one touches the bread from the time the flour is mixed until it is placed in the wagon. This makes the work easier, but it also dispenses with the labor of many men and greatly reduces the need for skilled workers."

SMALL BAKE SHOPS NOW REAP REWARD

Chicago, June 27.—Small bake shops are reaping their reward for aiding large bakery establishments in a war against employes in this industry.

The owners of these shops were friendly to the union-smashing policy of their large competitors. But as they have been merged into a coast-to-coast combination while the little, fellows are on the outside. They have been deserted by those whom they served. The various units of the new supertrust maintain their names for trade reasons, but they are agreed on opposition to the organized bakers. By the leading anti-union unit of the new trust is the Ward baking company.

The chief corporations of the new trust are the Ward baking company, the General baking company and the Continental baking corporation. The latter alone controls 130 plants and expects to do a total business of $100,000,000 this year, or about one-tenth of the nation's total baking.

SENATOR LADD IS DEAD; WAS FRIEND OF LABOR

Baltimore, June 27.—Senator Ladd of North Dakota died in a local hospital from kidney trouble. He was elected to the senate in 1920 and was chairman of the senate oil investigating committee. He was a chemist of recognized ability, and when in the senate was a friend of the farmer. He was the student, rather than orator. His vigorous campaign against the packers in food products aided and made him a national figure before he was elected to the senate. He supported the La Follette-Wheeler ticket in the last campaign, and was sympathetic to the trade union movement.

The death of Senator Ladd and the independent presidential ticket, last year, Senator Ladd was one of the four senators who was removed from committee assignments by the administration party.

RENEW AGREEMENT

San Antonio, Texas, June 27.—Organized street car men have renewed their agreement with the public service company.

RENEW AGREEMENT

Portland, Ore., June 27.—Organized street car employes and the local traction company have renewed their wage agreement. Last year's rate will prevail.

DEATHS IN SENATE MEAN TWO ELECTIONS

Washington, June 27.—The passing of Senators La Follette of Wisconsin and Ladd of North Dakota mean two unexpected special elections in these states.

The administration will endeavor to win both seats, not only to strengthen its vote in the senate, but because of the effect on next year's congressional elections. The progressive element is equally determined, and the contests will attract national attention.

SHIPWRIGHTS RAISE WAGES

Seattle, June 27.—The organizing activity of the Shipwrights' union made it possible to raise wages $1 a day.

Co-Op. Plan In Bankrupt Mines Is Latest Scheme To Cut Wages

Indianapolis, June 27.—In a book entitled "The Miners' Fight for American Standards," just issued, John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, says that if the people are to be assured coal at a price to secure a fair return for ownership and working conditions, labor must be closed and unscientific freight rates abolished. He declared that the co-operative operation of bankrupt mines is a wage-cutting scheme.

"The rate question is of peculiar interest at this time, because non-union operators, enjoying low rates for long hauls to markets belonging geographically to union fields, have been let loose ever-increasing tonnage of serf-produced coal into northern and northwestern markets," said President Lewis. "This situation has suited the purpose of the reactionary faction in the union fields, which clamors for a wage reduction.

"The latest scheme to evade a union contract by a 'socially advanced' industrial scheme is co-operative mining of uneconomic and bankrupt coal mines. The co-operation in this form of mine management is in fact the coöperation of the miners with the management to insure profits, at the workers' expense, to mines which are bankrupt of America, says that if the form of co-operative industry is merely wage cutting camouflaged as social progress.

In referring to the union-smashing policy of anti-union operators, the book states:

"The tales of outrage and tyranny that come from the non-union coal fields have weakened the respect for government everywhere. What Lincoln once said of the nation applies with peculiar force to the coal industry: 'It can not live half slave and half free.'

"These centers of disturbances are unbalancing all our business relationships as a result of their low-paid labor and the unscientific system of freight rates that enables this cheap labor to compete on more favorable terms with labor sections in which normal industrial conditions and civilized government prevail."

OUTPUT IS DOUBLED; WOULD REDUCE WAGE

Albany, N. Y., June 27.—Not satisfied with doubling production in the last 10 years, paper manufacturers are attempting to reduce working conditions, according to officers of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers. The unionists state that machinery now under construction will double the present output. This will be four times the amount produced in 1915.

The Paper Makers' Journal says that one company "union" has dropped its pretense that it is only interested in that body, and is now openly attacking trade union officials.

"In the history of the paper industry we find that the attempts to lower working conditions except through the trade union movement," says the labor publication, "have usually been made or substituted by the employers at various times, but only for the purpose of checking trade union gains. Employers keep as far behind union conditions as the safety valve will register 'safe from the union.'"

"TIME IS OPPORTUNE FOR FREIGHT RAISE"

New York, June 27.—In its weekly bulletin Spencer Trask & Co., financiers, say the time is opportune for the interstate commerce commission to raise freight rates for northwestern roads without involving the administration.

"The whole question," the bulletin states, "is of such political importance that the administration has not cared to risk becoming involved in such a dangerous controversy.

"Perhaps the interstate commerce commission will be given a clear road for some action within the near future, for there is no important shortage in the northwest for more than a year and there is a fair prospect of another season of prosperity in the agricultural section of the territory.

"It would be difficult to select a more opportune time than the present for making rate adjustments."

RAIL ENGINEERS ELECT PRENTER AS PRESIDENT

Cleveland, June 27.—William D. Prenter has been elected president of all the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' activities by the advisory board of that body. He succeeds the late Warren S. Stone. Mr. Prenter was first vice president and treasurer. Grand Chief Grifing succeeds Mr. Prenter as first vice president.

At the last convention the economic and the business activities of the brotherhood were separated.

VOTE ON HIGHER DUES FOR UNION CAMPAIGN

Denver, June 27.—Colorado trade unionists will vote on a proposal to increase the per capita tax of the state federation of labor from 6 cents per month to 8 cents.

The increase is to be used in the labor forward movement that the federation will conduct.

WHAT LA FOLLETTE PROVED

New York, June 27.—"The stormy career of Senator La Follette would have proved again, if proof were needed, that the American people admire a man who stands for something," said the New York World, in an editorial article on the late Wisconsin senator.

"There are American politicians more than a plenty who plot and plan power by manipulating patronage and whose idea of political wisdom is to straddle issues, postpone decisions and seek safety in talking platitudes. They do not commonly get far with the public, however successful in inner-office conferences."

IS 'MONKEY BILL' TRIAL NEW PUBLICITY STUNT?

Chattanooga, Tenn., June 27.—Is the Scopes evolution trial at Dayton a publicity stunt to boom that town?

Nick Gibson, a publicity man, says it is. He claims he put up a committee that was appointed to put that town "on the map" during the trial. Gibson exhibits two checks for $75 to sustain his claim.

Similar intimations are contained in resolutions introduced in the state house Green by attorneys who ask that Judge Raulston be removed as trial judge when the Scopes case is tried, violating the state anti-evolution law.

The resolutions charge that Judge Raulston allowed the Scopes indictment to be drawn illegally to prevent any other city from conducting the trial under the law, thereby taking the publicity from Dayton.

Scopes was indicted by a special session of the grand jury, which a judge may call, according to statute, only in an emergency. Lawyers make the point that the Scopes offense is a misdemeanor, and that this does not constitute an emergency. The legal 30 days' notice required for a special session was not given. If all legal requirements were fulfilled, these lawyers say, Scopes could not have been indicted until August.

Judge Raulston's opponents also charge him with expressing opinions of the trial, and publicly declaring that he favors the law.

UNIONISTS TO STUDY PACIFIC RELATIONS

San Francisco, June 27.—The executive council of the state federation of labor has voted a leave of absence to Secretary Paul Scharrenberg to attend the biennial meeting of the Institute of Pacific Relations. This institute consists of groups from Australia, Canada, China, India, New Zealand, Philippine Islands and the United States. Its purpose is to assemble accurate information on conditions in these countries to mold opinion and feeling toward other peoples, to discuss unsympathetic and their relations may be clearly comprehended and to point the way to right action which will lead to understanding and peace in the Pacific. The chairman of the United States committee is Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, president of Leland Stanford university.

WANT BRITISH EMBASSY BUILT BY UNION LABOR

Washington, June 27.—Building craftsmen in the nation's capital are interesting the American Federation of Labor in their effort to have the new British embassy building built by union labor.

British organized labor will be asked to aid this movement.

The fund for the building is to be erected has been purchased by the leading anti-union contractor in this city. In a letter to the British embassy, officers of the Washington building trades council say that every embassy building in this city was erected by union labor. The unionists were merely informed that the contract has not been awarded.

It is now proposed to interest British trade unionists, through the A. F. of L.

BOBBING IS BARBERING

Trenton, N. J., June 27.—Ladies' hair bobbing is barbering, ruled Vice Chancellor Berry in a dispute between two employers. The court cited the Old Testament, the Standard dictionary and the practices of the ancient coppers to sustain his decision.